



Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Top Tips to Minimise Calving Mastitis and lower BMSCC

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE OAMARU

70-80% of all cows will calve by the end of August, so what you do to control and manage mastitis this month will have a large bearing on the rest of the season. Aim for the BMSCC in the month of August to never exceed 200,000 and average under 150,000.

- Where possible calve springers on the cleanest ground you can. Back fencing springer cows will likely result in more faecal contamination of the udder as cows are forced to sit down in a smaller area.
- Bolster immune defence at calving. Multimin given pre-calving halved the rate of clinical mastitis in a NZ trial.
- Teatspray springers daily if they are coming to the shed – this will both help to condition the teats (make them smooth and soft) and prevent new infection occurring.
- Collect calves twice daily. Studies have shown that the longer the calf stays on the cow, the greater the risk that she gets mastitis.
- Never make springer or colostrums cows run – this may result in blood in the udder and enable bacteria into the teat through leaking milk - cows may also prematurely loose the teat-sealant. Big walks coming back from the run-off close to calving are also a risk.
- Low pressure wash any dirty/muddy teats before the first milking. Dry with paper towels.
- Strip every quarter at the first milking with gloved hands and be fastidious with hand hygiene. Wash hands in between infected cows.
- During the colostrum period hand teatspray before and after cup removal. This will dramatically speed the conditioning of teats. Teatspray concentration should be not less than 1:5 in this period and should have an overall emollient concentration of 15-20%. Apply teat grease to any cows with cracks or chaps.
- On the 4th day in the colostrum mob, RMT test every cow before she exits into the milkers. Treat any clinicals immediately and retain Grade 2 and 3 cows for retesting in 48hrs. Any cows after 48hrs that remain at or increase to Grade 3/ clinical should be treated.
- By being the gate keeper and stopping infected cows entering the milking herd you will set the season up for the best quality milk.
- Use anti-inflammatories (Metacam is best) in cows with significant udder swelling (hard, red, painful), in infected quarters.

It is the inflammation that causes a quarter to become light. Early anti-inflammatory treatment in conjunction with antibiotics will give the best results.

- Make sure that all staff are fastidious about hygiene before inserting an intramammary into the teat end. The teat end must be cleaned just the same as you would when teat-sealing a cow to ensure no extra bugs are introduced into the udder. Teatspray after insertion.
- Ensure colostrum cows are not over-milked – cups should be on no longer than 9 minutes.
- Monitor your cows' teats after cup removal – are they excessively swollen, do they feel thick and meaty? This may indicate either an excessive milking time, too high vacuum, a mismatch of inflation to teat size or faulty pulsation.
- Make sure all your staff know the MRS T rules – Mark, Record, Separate and then Treat.



Calcium for Down Cows

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutrition) – VETERINARY CENTRE

With some great new options available over the past couple of seasons, it's a good time to review your treatment options for down cows with suspected milk fever:

- ▶ **Calcium bags into the vein** – will cause blood calcium levels to **peak within minutes enabling the cow to rise**, and stay elevated for about 4 – 5 hours. A down cow needs 4g of calcium to restore her blood levels of calcium to normal, plus a buffer → 10g is deemed sufficient for a 500kg cow. One pink bag of **Calpro375** contains 15g of calcium and is the recommended treatment for a down cow.
- ▶ **Calcium bolus** – an ideal follow up to IV calcium, a calcium bolus will give a **sustained release of calcium for the next 12 hours**,
- ▶ **Oral calcium solutions** – takes up to an hour to raise calcium levels, which will then stay elevated for around 12 hours. Can be used to follow up IV calcium treatment. Some contain energy as well as calcium. Bovaseal Pearls and Calol are very effective choices.
- ▶ **Calcium bags under the skin** – are absorbed slowly – especially if the cow is cold, they don't cause blood calcium levels to peak like they do for IV calcium, but will be elevated for the same time period, about 4 – 5 hours afterwards.

keeping the cow on her feet as she regains her appetite and her body's calcium homeostatic mechanisms are restored. No risk of aspiration pneumonia unlike with an oral solution.



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Transition Cows Management

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Getting it right in the transition period (2-3 weeks pre and post calving), is critical for the reduction of metabolic disease, improved early lactation appetite, the control of condition loss, increased production and subsequent reproductive performance.

1 OAD milking in the Colostrum period (and beyond)

OAD milking will positively alter the energy balance of the cow. Cows milked OAD are less likely to mobilise excessive condition – not only do they produce less milk, but they have higher dry matter intakes over the first 10-14 days post-calving. Cows will be in better immune status and recover from metritis and mastitis faster. The egg development in the ovaries is of higher quality leading to better fertility. Ensure milk withholds are complied with as instructed.

Tip – collect freshly calved cows from springers TAD and milk within 12 hrs of birth. The second milking should occur 12-24hrs later – i.e. in the mornings. Cows should ideally stay on OAD until “the belly is wider than the udder”, indicating they are eating well. Based on cow collar data the average OAD milked cow takes 10-14 days before dry matter intakes start to plateau – so this is our recommended OAD period. Poor condition heifers will benefit from remaining on OAD milking right up until early October. There will be little production loss if poor conditioned mature cows are milked OAD for the first 3-4 weeks of lactation. Over-conditioned cows and poor condition cows will equally benefit.

A.M. – TAD cows milked first, then Colostrums, then new mums (calved overnight), then Reds

P.M. – OAD cows milked first (early PM), then TAD, then new mums (calved during day).

2 Improve Calcium Status and Supplementation

Providing cows with magnesium and calcium anionic salts as springers will reduce much of the milk-fever risk, but also take away a lot of the subclinical issues that most cows experience on the 1st day of calving. Getting it right will reduce mastitis and increase DM intakes.

Tip – use transition mixes containing $CaSO_4$, $MagSO_4$, $MagCl$ and $CaCl$, for approx. 10-15 days pre-calving. Discuss quantities with your Prime Vet. Effective

Ready-made Transition Cow pre-mixes (also containing trace minerals, Rumensin and Vit E) are available at ~70c/cow/day, these can be ordered through the Vet Centre.

Providing additional Ca on the day of calving may further improve the results. This is best given to the cow by either a Calcium Bolus (which have become very popular as they are the most effective), or a starter drench, oral Calol (Bovaseal Pearls) or a Ca bag under the skin.

Tip – give this at the first milking within 12 hrs of calving. Greatest benefits will be seen in cows of 5-6 years of age and greater.

3 Fibre to keep the rumen in top condition and reduce energy content of diet

Diets which are low in volume or fibre (e.g. FB) may result in the rumen muscles getting out of condition.

Tip – Feed up to 5kg of straw or hay to springers to maintain rumen muscle fitness and function (via active rumination) and to dilute the energy density of the springer diet.

4 Rumen microbial adaption

It takes 7-10 days for rumen microbes to change from one diet (that is fermenting soluble carbohydrates) to the next (that is fermenting complex carbohydrates – e.g. grass). Rumen fermentation needs to be at its peak efficiency at the time the cow calves.

Tip – Make sure that springers cows are exposed to the feed they will be offered as colostrums and milkers. This may mean that they are back on grass (or grass based) and also get some grain in the shed, silage or PKE starting 7-10 days before calving. They do not necessarily need to be taken completely off crop (although best not to feed more than 2-3kg of FB to springers). Feeding Rumensin will increase feed conversion efficiency by more rapidly selecting beneficial bacteria.

5 Protein

In late gestation the foetus is rapidly growing, the mammary gland is regenerating, and large volumes of colostrum antibodies must be produced. Springer cows (from 3-4 weeks pre-calve) have an increased protein requirement. Deficient cows have compromised immune function and production.

Tip – cows within 7-10 days of calving need ~2.0 kg of Crude Protein per day. For a springer offered 14kgDM, this would be a total dietary crude protein of 15-16%. Soya meal, canola, peas, DDG and Italian ryegrass are a good source of additional protein. FB, straw and cereal balages are very poor.

6 Springer Energy Intakes

The industry recommendation has been to slightly restrict intakes of springer cows. The benefit of doing this is to prepare the liver for post-calving fat metabolism and reduce milk fever. Aim to be feeding optimal condition cows 90% of their ME requirements and light cows 100% of ME requirements.

Tip – springer cows should ideally be eating (down the throat) 2.8% of their body weight daily. (min 2.5% - max 3.1%). For a 500kg cow this would be a 13-14kgDM offering. For a BCS ≥ 5.0 cow aim to give her 105MJME down the throat and a BCS ≤ 5.0 cow 115MJME down the throat.

7 Trace Minerals

Make sure that cow Trace mineral status is adequate at calving. The big three to ensure good immune function are Selenium, Copper and Zinc.

Tip – most farmers provide cows with short acting selenium as springer cows return home, consider extending this to the highly researched Multimin injection which provides all three for extra coverage. Analysis of Fodder Crops in our area shows that they are consistently low in Zinc.

8 Early Calf Removal

Removing the calf within 12 hours ensures that cow bonding is reduced, and cows are less likely to ‘pine’ at the gate. The risk of mastitis is significantly reduced by shortening the suckling period and the colostrum when harvested within 12 hours will be far superior to a cow that has been calved 24hrs.

Tip – use the fact that you are milking the main colostrum mob just OAD to free up time for TAD calf and cow pick up. Graze colostrum cows from the back of the paddock to the front so they are not hanging out at the gateway. Alternatively putting a wire across the paddock corner on a 45° angle, 30 m from closest corner to the shed will deflect them out of that area.

Emergency Treatment of Lice in Spring

Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I was recently asked the question 'My heifers have come home with lice; will it affect my calves? The answer is a resounding yes it will if you don't do anything about it right now.

Lice are the most important winter parasite of cattle; you will see a lot of scratching and hair loss over the neck and shoulder. I strongly believe that severe lice infestations do cause milk production and BCS loss in dairy cattle. Furthermore, lice burdens are often highest in cattle which are in poor condition and have been tight for feed over the winter.

While it would have always been better to have treated cattle for lice in early winter a salvage treatment can still be used in the spring. The critical thing is to dose all cattle with an effective dose and product.

Product choice becomes vitally important as we head into spring due to both the milk and bobby calf withholds.

Pour on "Mectin" treatment options- These treat both lice and internal parasites.

- Cydectin is the logical choice in this situation as it achieves good control of both lice and internal parasites. It has the advantage of both a nil milk and meat withhold. The bobby calf meat withhold is also nil.
- While pour-on drenches containing Abamectin are great options for controlling

lice MPI implemented a new milk and meat with holding time of 35 days in Sept 2022. This means Reflex and Topline are largely restricted to being used as dry off treatments in the autumn.

- Eprinex is an outstanding worm drench and has the advantage of a nil meat and milk withhold. However, the lice kill is not optimal, and I would not recommend it in this situation for emergency treatment of a lice problem.

Pour on lice and fly only treatment options.

- Blaze is a synthetic pyrethroid pour-on which has a nil milk withhold and 28-day meat withhold. There is no bobby calf withholding period.
- Destruct is a pour-on organophosphate which has a 3-day meat withhold and 5-day milk withhold.

It is important to be aware that when any of these pour on products are applied to cattle that have come straight off crop and have thick coats covered in mud or faeces, then only suppression of lice numbers will be achieved at best. Lice numbers will rebuild again over 4-8 weeks, often requiring another treatment. This is due to some lice escaping a lethal dose of drug in thick coats and none of the chemicals having a persistent effect on lice or killing eggs.



Destruct Pour On 5 LITRE

Dose Rate 1ml/10kg (100 x 500kg Doses)

\$2.34 +GST per Dose

Meat Withhold – **3 days**
Milk Withhold – **5 days**
Bobby Calves Withhold – **3 days**

Destruct ACVM A005740

\$269
Incl GST



Blaze Pour On 5 LITRE

Dose Rate 1ml/20kg (200 x 500kg Doses)

\$2.03 +GST per Dose

Meat Withhold – **28 days**
Milk Withhold – **NIL**
Bobby Calves Withhold – **NIL**

Blaze ACVM A008214

\$466
Incl GST



Cydectin Pour On 15 LITRE

Dose Rate 1ml/10kg (300 x 500kg Doses)

\$5.99 +GST per Dose

Meat Withhold – **NIL**
Milk Withhold – **NIL**
Bobby Calves Withhold – **NIL**

Cydectin Pour-On ACVM A006203

\$1,799
Incl GST

Tailpaint Identification Groups

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Having a good tail-paint identification system/plan should make it a lot easier to identify groups for both metrichecking, non-cycler treatment and then heat detection in the mating period.

The schedule below is simple and easy to follow and ensures groups are identified for timely management. The regimen has been based on a 1st of August PSC for cows and a 24th October PSM – adjust these dates to suit your herd.

Tailpaint Regime for Metrichecking

- Planned Start of Calving (PSC) for cows - 1st August
- 0-2 weeks after the official PSC (up to ~14th of August)
 - Mark all cows with a **Blue stripe over the hips**
 - This group to be metrichecked 7-10 days later ~21st August
- 3-5 weeks after the official PSC (up to ~4th September)
 - Mark all cows with a **Green stripe over the hips**
 - This group to be metrichecked 7-10 days later ~ 11th of September
- 6-9 weeks after official PSC (up to ~25th of September)
 - Mark these with a **Yellow stripe over the hips**
 - This group needs to be metrichecked 7-10 days later ~1st of October
- 10 weeks plus after PSC (after ~25th of September), mark these cows with a **DOUBLE Yellow stripe over the hips**
 - This small group could be metrichecked around mid-October



Tailpaint Regime for Identification of Non-Cyclers

- Planned Start of Mating (PSM) for cows - 24th October
- 35 days before the PSM (~19th of September) all cows that had calved up to the 4th of September (Blue and Green Hip Stripe cows) to get **Red Tailpaint on Tailhead**.
All cows that calved after this date get **Yellow Tailpaint on the Tailhead**.
- Touch up every 5 days. As cows cycle repaint them in **Green**
- 9-5 days before PSM all **remaining Red Tailpaint cows** are eligible for CIDR treatment
- 1 day (24hrs) before PSM **repaint all cycled cows with Green**.
- As cows are **mated paint them Blue**
- 8-11 day into mating all remaining **Yellow Tailpaint cows with ONE hip stripe** are eligible of CIDR treatment
- 21 Days after the PSM all **second-round inseminations to be painted Orange**.
- 24 days into mating all outstanding non-mated cows (including the **Yellow TWO hip stripe** – very late calvers) are eligible for hormonal treatment.



Preserving Colostrum Quality

We spend a lot of time talking about the importance of colostrum but there are some really easy things we can do **to look after** the quality once we've got it.

Measure gold colostrum with Brix refractometer; a **Brix value > 22%** means it's likely enough antibodies are present. With practice, it only takes 10 seconds to take a reading on your milk!

Ensure that milk buckets **stay clean by using lids on buckets**. Bacteria in faeces will immediately start degrading the antibodies in the colostrum. It's well worth getting in the habit of keeping it clean and being

mindful of storage.

Antibodies in the colostrum will naturally start degrading immediately so **if not using the colostrum within 1 -2 hours then strongly consider the following:**

- **Freezing gold colostrum** i.e. 1.5L soft drink bottles filled with gold colostrum. When defrosting, do it slowly in a water bath.
- OR if wanting to use in short term, **preserve with potassium sorbate**. It is very easy to do and we have good resources at our respective clinics to help with this. The mix can then be:



- Make a 50% solution of potassium sorbate and water.

Potassium sorbate	And add this mix into the according water volume and stir.	Water
50g		100mL
500g		1L
1kg		2L
5kg		10L

- Add this potassium sorbate solution and mix into colostrum to make a 1% potassium sorbate / colostrum mix.

Use the potassium sorbate solution	And add this mix into the according water volume and stir.	Colostrum
100mL		10L
1L		100L
2L		200L
10L		1000L

If you are unsure on your colostrum quality management, get us to come and take bloods in your calves (<7 days old) and this will help evaluate if your current system is effective before a scours outbreak eventuates!

Event Recording for Dairy Audits

Hamish Newton BVSc PhD – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru



We have been doing the annual Restricted Veterinary Medicine authorisation visits over the last month. In general, year on year, we are seeing more events being recorded. Of note is the increased recording of lameness events even for those cows that are inspected and do not get treated with a drug. This has been a bit of culture shift.

From Fonterra's perspective (and presumably Oceania's) there are two big drivers behind the things farmers are asked to record:

1. things you are legally required to record to ensure compliance with the Animal Products Act, and
2. things Fonterra wants to know for other reasons (advocacy, marketing, planning, understanding on-farm conditions)

The legal part comes from MPI's NZCP1 which states that "records must be kept of all sick or diseased [milking] animals and of all treatments administered", and "Records must be kept of the administration details for ALL animal treatments regardless of whether a milk withholding period applies."

Point 2 is where you can really gain some value from recording. What you think has happened and what really happened can be quite different. What happened to the cows that are not present at planned start of mating that did calve? Were they Johnes' cases, metabolic cases, or down cows? Lately I have had some quite enlightening conversations about how many calves are still born. My perspective as vet (we do not calve many live calves) may well not tally up with actually happens, but what matters is what Fonterra's clients can be shown, not what we think happens

– hence why the fate of all calves now needs to be recorded. The next push is likely to be lameness. From the lameness survey work done last season by our clinics as part of a nationwide survey, the proportion of cows that have a lameness score ≥ 1 (not completely sound), is well below what is considered a normal percentage in housed cattle. I really do think we have fewer lame cows with our systems compared to housed systems but as an industry we do tend to under record lameness events. We tend not to record lameness unless we treat with drugs. At present the amount of lameness recorded is possibly not plausible to overseas customers.

Recording has got easier with phone apps, and Individual animal treatments can be pulled from MINDA to the Dairy Diary app (if you complete simple authorisation step) so your shed audit should be simpler. The actual values are not going to be audited but whether you are recording events is.

REMINDER



metacam

metacam 40 ACVM A011754

- Double strength Metacam 40 with meloxicam 40mg/ml
- More cost effective pain relief for cow and calves

NEW DOSE RATE

1.25ml/100kg

Selovin LA is back in stock

This product was unavailable during last Autumn but is back in stock now. Selovin LA is a true long acting selenium depot - it has a 12 month payout. If your cows missed their autumn dose then this can be given now but they should also receive concurrent short acting selenium – this because blood selenium levels from Selovin LA take 3-4 weeks to rise.



Selovin LA ACVM A009509

Downer Cows



Luke Smyth BvSc
VETERINARY CENTRE OAMARU

Every dairy farm will experience some metabolic downer cow cases this spring and most are a relatively quick fix with metabolic treatment and up within a few hours.

But a significant number stay down for long periods. Any cow which has been down for over 24 hours requires good nursing to ensure a full recovery but this can be very labour intensive and time consuming.

It is important to understand that these cows are often not down due to the primary condition (i.e. milk fever) but are down due to secondary complications such as muscle injuries, nerve damage and compartment syndrome. This damage can occur within as little as 3 to 6 hours of going down, especially if the surface is hard and/or the animal is heavy. So, a cow needs to be got back on her feet quickly or managed appropriately to prevent this secondary damage.

Nursing of a downer cow should only be undertaken if the cow has a reasonable chance of recovery and a competent person is on hand, who is prepared to invest the time and energy in the care of the cow. This is an important animal welfare message. If you are unable or unwilling to provide a high level of care then euthanasia should be elected early in the piece.

Inadequate care of down cows is one of the most common animal welfare complaints from members of the public.

Research has shown that over 45% of downer cows can recover with good nursing, while 0% of cows will recover if very poor nursing is given!

- Ideally the down cow is sheltered and on clean, dry and soft bedding. Normally this means putting her in a calf shed. While the majority of down cows are nursed in the paddock, this is not ideal and she should at least have a cow cover put on her.
- Clean water and good feed should always be available. A cow should drink 40 litres a day and have at least 12-15kg of DM. A 1 litre bottle of Calstart or Headstart is equivalent to a kg DM.
- Longer acting anti-inflammatories such as Metacam and Rimadyl will definitely improve cow comfort and prognosis.
- Move the cow from side to side every 3 hours to ensure her weight is not always to one side and flex and extend the hind limbs each time the cow is moved
- Regularly milk the udder out by hand stripping, check she is not developing mastitis.
- Encourage the cow to rise, use hip clamps to get her to her feet only, never leave cows hanging in hip clamps.
- Regularly re-assess her progress and diagnosis. If you have any doubts ask for help.



Detection and Treatment of Endometritis

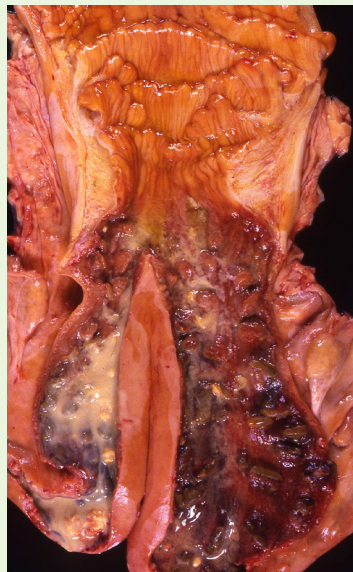


Mat O'Sullivan BvSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

We now know that cows suffering from endometritis do not thrive as well as their herd mates. We see lower rates of rumination in these cows which lifts post-treatment.

Cows with untreated endometritis will have 10-20% higher empty rates than healthy cows and those that do conceive will be 2-3 weeks later than healthy cows.

Cows should be checked in batches ideally 7-28 days post-calving. Cows that have either purulent discharge (pus) or foul-smelling discharge are candidates for treatment.





SELEKT™

Pump Complete
\$895.90
Incl GST

The SELEKT formulae are intended for delivery into the rumen, using a SELEKT cattle pump and drenching set






	Antacid	Fresh Cow	Off Feed	Restore
Use for rumen buffering	✓			
Following Caesarian section		✓		✓
For hydration				✓
Inappetance in early lactation			✓	
Reduction in the risk of ketosis		✓		
Ketosis recuperation				✓ if fluids needed
Following correction of left displacement of the abomasum			✓	✓
Reduction in the risk of milk fever/hypocalcaemia and ketosis		✓		

Lameness Risk Starts at Calving

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

It is now becoming accepted that a lot of the lameness cases that we see throughout the season are precipitated by a combination of the 'calving effect' and coinciding inflammation in the hoof during same period.

The 'calving effect' is the laxity (relaxing) of connective tissues that we see at around the time of calving (you see this as the tail head lifting to assist birth). This same relaxation occurs in the connective tissues that bind the pedal bone to the wall of the hoof. The result is the pedal bone sinks in the hoof (which eventually results in long (or lifted) toes). As the bone sinks it also puts pressure on the soft tissues above the sole creating inflammation. The inflammation compounds when cows lose excessive weight or they start the season in poor body condition. This depletes the cushioning fat pad between the bone and sole. Standing on concrete for extended periods then further compounds the problem. The resulting inflammation and bone movement then weaken the white line which may cause issue months down the track. To minimise risk:

- Calve cows in optimal BCS (so they start with a thick fat pad in hoof)

- Feed and manage to minimise BCS in the first month of lactation (so not to deplete the pad).
- Avoid cows standing on concrete for extended periods in the two weeks pre and 1 month post-calving (think milking efficiency). Think standing in shoes on hard ground with no insoles.



Maize feeding – What to consider

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Ruminant Nutrition) – VETERINARY CENTRE WAIMATE

With maize silage becoming an increasingly popular supplement in this area, it's timely to think about some key areas to consider if you're incorporating it into your system this season. Maize is a great combination of a moderately digestible forage with a high-quality starchy grain, and if done well, can produce a large bulk of moderate energy, low protein feed which will complement high protein ryegrass pasture well.

When feeding keep these points in mind:

Minerals:

- Maize is low in sodium (Na), calcium (Ca) & phosphorus (P) – these minerals should be supplemented if maize silage makes up more than 20-25% of the diet, particularly over springtime
- For example, if you're feeding up to 5kg maize with mainly pasture, a lactating cow will need around 60 – 70g Limeflour, 15 – 25g Agsalt, 20 – 35g DCP & 40 – 45g CausMag daily
- If maize makes up more than 40% of the diet, or feeds other than pasture make up a significant part of the diet, talk to us at the Vet Centre and we can check your mineral requirements for you

Acidosis:

- While it is a starchy feed, when introduced slowly at 1-2kg DM and stepped up every 3 – 4 days the risk of acidosis is low
- The longer maize silage has been in the stack, the more digestible the grain becomes, peaking at 6 months – step allowances back when changing stacks to reduce the risk of ruminal disturbance

Protein:

- Maize silage is a low protein supplement at 7-8% CP, and this should complement spring pasture with its often excessive protein levels well

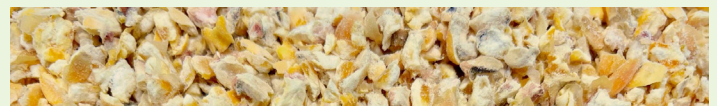
- If you're feeding more than 4-5 kgDM maize, or your pasture protein drops below 15-16% CP, then your cows may be deficient in protein – this will depend on their stage of lactation
- When feeding maize silage with other low protein feeds such as fodder beet advice should be sort to make sure protein and mineral balance is achieved
- If needed, we can analyse your overall diet to check the levels of protein and minerals are adequate for the stage of lactation

Springers/Dry period feeding:

- Maize can be a good choice over the springer period in place of pasture silage as it has much lower potassium levels (av. 1.2% DM vs 2-2.5+% DM) and a lower DCAD
- If using over this time and the dry period seek advice if feeding with other low protein feeds e.g. fodder beet, particularly in the last 2 -3 weeks of pregnancy when cows protein requirements increase significantly

Inoculants:

- Adding a maize silage specific inoculant has the obvious advantage of increasing the likelihood of a favourable fermentation and thus improving production, some can also increase the stability of maize silage at feedout
- All the starches in maize can be an ideal environment for bacteria and moulds to grow once they are exposed to air as the stack is opened/silage fed out, the right inoculant reduces the risk of this



Transition Calcium Bolus

Treatment – to raise blood calcium to counteract hypocalcemia during transition to lactation

Bolus weight – **176 grams**

Price – **\$12.26** plus gst each

Each Bolus Contains:

- Calcium chloride: Offers a potent immediate release, but levels drop over time
- Calcium carbonate: Offers a low immediate release, but calcium levels increase over time
- Calcium Propionate (preservative)
- Vitamin D3

Recommended dose:

- 1 bolus prior to, or immediately after calving
- 1 bolus 12 hours after first bolus



Calving Seminars

2023

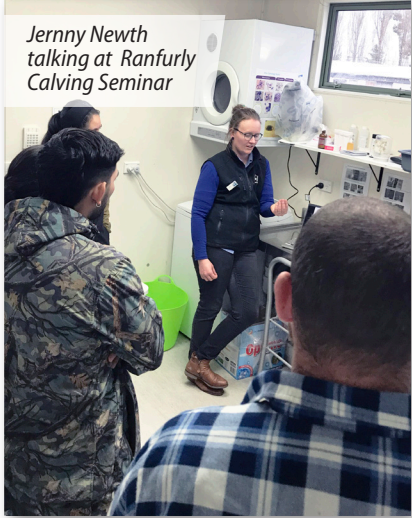
Hamish Newton talking at Ranfurly Calving Seminar



Mat O'Sullivan talking about Mastitis at Twizel Calving Seminar



Jernny Newth talking at Ranfurly Calving Seminar



Kevin Kearney talking at Twizel Calving Seminar



Ryan Luckman instructs at Waimate Calving Seminar



Andrew Muir talking at Twizel Calving Seminar



Catherine Nelson talking at Twizel Calving Seminar



Vanessa Love talking at Ranfurly Calving Seminar

Introducing

Nicole Kennedy

TERRITORY MANAGER Oamaru

We welcome to the team Nicole Kennedy as Territory Manager for Oamaru who takes over from Rosalie Calder who has recently stepped into the Waimate Territory Manager position.

Nicole will bring a good amount of existing farm knowledge having significant experience in veterinary practices further south where she became an accomplished dairy services technician.

Nicole is excited about taking on the Territory Manager role and is particularly keen to add significant product knowledge to the practical experience gained during on farm technician work. Nicole also brings a serious sporting pedigree to the team having represented Otago in the Farah Palmer Cup from 2016-2022.

We look forward to Nicole using all of these exciting attributes to add to both our Veterinary Centre team and our farmer clients businesses as the 2023/24 season gets underway.



Heather Martyn

027 872 5266

ruralcompliancesolutions@gmail.com

- ✓ Audit & maintain MINDA cows
- ✓ NAIT movements & Audit
- ✓ Data entry for disease and treatments
- ✓ Collar data maintenance
- ✓ H&S and Farm Policy updates
- ✓ Assist with data preparation for shed visits, environmental compliance or co-op difference
- ✓ Staff Inductions
- ✓ Farm Accommodation inspections

Bobby Calf Welfare



Jess McKenzie BVSc (Dist)
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Animal welfare is at the heart of any good farming business. All calves, regardless of their purpose, should be treated with care and respect. Bobby calf welfare is important – the following guidelines will help you meet the welfare needs of animals in your care and to comply with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999:

- **Colostrum** – bobby calves must be fed colostrum (10% bodyweight minimum) within the first 24 hours of life. Good quality colostrum should be fed twice daily for the first 4 days of life.
- **Handling** – handle calves gently and with care at all times.
- **Housing** – bobby calves should be moved to a sheltered, draught-free calf shed with comfortable bedding as soon as practicable after birth.
- **Water** – calves must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- **Age** – calves must be at least four FULL days of age before transporting them.

How do I know if my calves are fit for transport?

In addition to being a minimum of four days old before transport, the following signs will indicate if a calf is fit for transport:

- **Healthy** – eyes are bright, not dull or sunken. Ears are upright. No signs of visible disease (eg. scours), deformity, injury, blindness or disability.
- **Strong** – able to bear weight on all four legs. Be strong, able to rise unassisted and move freely around the pen.
- **Hooves** – firm and worn, not rounded and soft.
- **Navel** – dry and withered, not pink/red, raw or fleshy.
- **Fed** – at least ½ the days ration of colostrum no more than 2 hours prior to collection, or as per your supply contract.

Slow and unsteady calves, those with a wet navel, concave (sunken stomach) or scours are unfit for transport and should not be presented. Truck drivers are not permitted to load unfit calves.

Fit for transport Tick all 8 to leave the gate



Congratulations

Congratulations to Lucy Cameron from the Waimate Veterinary Centre who has recently become a **Member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (MANZCVS) in Ruminant Nutrition.**

These examinations are challenging. Well done Lucy on your achievement – and fitting your study in around a busy family and farming life and work!

dairynz.co.nz/bobby-calves



MULTIMIN
Enhancing Calf Immunity

A 2018 New Zealand study¹ demonstrated the health benefits of injecting calves with MULTIMIN® early in life. The effect was rapid (within three days of injection), with death and disease consistently halved at all ages for calves that were injected.

Calf (less than 1 week old)
Dose Rate – 1ml
(under the skin)

52%
REDUCTION
IN DISEASE

58%
REDUCTION
IN DEATHS

1ml
New Calf
Cost per Dose
82c
Excl GST

1. Bates, A., Wells, M., Laven, RA., Simpson, M. (2019) Reduction in morbidity and mortality of dairy calves from an injectable trace mineral supplement. Veterinary Record Published Online First: 25 April 2019. doi: 10.1136/vr.105082.